

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Reds Ask Seizing Of Panama Canal

By Drew Pearson

It's being hushed up, but CIA Director Allen Dulles has warned that the Russians have launched a big propaganda campaign to convince Panama to follow Egypt's Suez lead and seize the Panama Canal. Allen Dulles, younger brother of the Secretary of State, believes this may produce a big crisis right in our own side yard.

Pearson

Unlike the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal runs through territory the United States Government bought and paid for many years ago. But this doesn't faze the Russians. They are telling the Panamanians they have a right to revoke the sale, and could then get rich on canal tolls.

Chiang Protests

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has sent a frantic message to President Eisenhower, pleading that he not allow American reporters to visit Red China.

The cable followed on the heels of Dulles' revelation that he is ready to lift the travel ban which has been keeping newsmen away.

Chiang warned that visits by reporters would be disastrous to his prestige in the Far East.

Chances are the White House will ignore his protests.

Nasser Plot Reversed

It will never be admitted, but a British plot to kill Dictator Nasser has been quietly reversed. British operatives in Egypt are now under orders, ironically, to keep Nasser alive at all costs.

Reason is that the British now believe Nasser's likely successor would be more dangerous than the wily dictator himself. Nasser has surrounded himself with so many Communist sympathizers that the Reds would probably take over Egypt completely in case of his demise.

United States agents were aware of the original British assassination plot—which may seem like a drastic solution to the Egyptian problem, but it's the way politics are played in the intrigue-ridden Middle East. U. S. agents also report that the British changed signals after concluding the assassination strategy would boomerang.

They figured the Reds would make a martyr of Nasser, using his death to stir up Arab emotions and take over the government. Nasser's probable successor would be Lt. Col. Zakaria Mohi El-din, now Minister of Interior, who controls the secret police. Absolutely ruthless, he is considered a Moscow stooge.

Next most powerful person in the Egyptian government is Minister of Education Kamel Ad-din Husein, another follower of the Moscow line, who

also commands the so-called "National Liberation Army." As an example of his brand of "education," he recently called on Egyptian students to hate the Western "enemy."

"Smash him, kill him, exterminate him!" cried Husein. "Every compatriot, every youth, every old man must remember that the first factor for destroying our enemy is to hate him. To hold him in contempt, and to fill our hearts with rage and hatred against him."

It is significant that the Communist technique for infiltrating a country is to gain control first of the secret police, then the educational system.

Ike's Ex-Aide

The backstage story that has been intriguing Washington society for weeks now seems on the way to settlement. It's the alimony dispute between Ike's former naval aide, Capt. Harry Butcher, and his former wife, which was scheduled to involve Mrs. Eisenhower as a witness.

While their husbands were abroad, Mrs. Eisenhower and Mrs. Butcher shared the same apartment at the Wardman Park Hotel.

Butcher, having long been separated from his wife, divorced her in the spring of

1946, married Mary Margaret Ford May 7, 1946, and went to live in Santa Barbara, Calif., where he now owns and operates radio-TV station KEYT.

By a property settlement made March 20, 1946, Harry was to pay his first wife \$1500 a month for life, or until her remarriage. She now claims, in a suit for alimony filed in the U. S. District Court in the District of Columbia, that this was reduced by verbal agreement in September, 1951, to \$750 a month on condition that payments be made regularly on the first of the month.

However, Mrs. Butcher now alleges that payments lagged behind. She asks that the old agreement be reinstated and claims back payments of \$41,850—\$4050 for 1953 and \$37,800 for 1953-6, during which only \$600 a month was paid.

However, Butcher, reached in Santa Barbara, said that a property settlement was under discussion and a compromise certain to be reached.

Washington Pipeline

Congressmen aren't happy about it, but Congressman Clare Hoffman's proposal to abolish income taxes is now drawing more mail on Capitol Hill than any other measure. The House Judiciary Committee is receiving over 500 letters a day demanding hearings on Hoffman's bill. No hearings will be held... Budget pruners have hit the National Arboretum, the Nation's outdoor "tree museum," so badly that it had to appeal to Boy Scouts to clear a fire break. The Arboretum, which depends on Congress for money to study and preserve trees on its 300-acre grounds, is now strapped.

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